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THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

CITY ITEMS.

Country and City Dealers

Who have not visited Bates & Bell's, 21 Fifth street will do well to call and examine the immense stock now on exhibition. The goods are all fresh, bought at the lowest market rates, and will be sold at the New York quotations.

Musical Institute,

At the Beaver Female Seminary, Prof. E. Ambuhl, educated at Geneva, Switzerland, Principal, opens January 2d, 1866. Address Rev. R. T. Taylor.

Yeast Powders.

Many Yeast Powders are advertised, all claiming to be the best, but for excellence, none can compare with the article manufactured by Preston & Merrill. Sold in Pittsburgh at Fleming's drug store, No. 84 Market street.

General Dry Goods Dealers

Will find a large stock of standard makes of domestic goods in our assortment. Bruner's Balmorals, A and B, foreign and domestic Skirts, of well known brands; Keystone, Waterville, Home, Middlesex, Waterville, and Lady Washington Flannels, Prints, all standard brands; Muslins, of all widths; Blankets, all sizes and weights; Merinos, Silks, Colorgs and Delaines. Bates & Bell's, 21 Fifth street.

Ladies' Furs.

The stock of ladies' furs at the popular and fashionable house of Wm. Fleming, No. 129 Wood street, is complete, consisting of full sets Hudson Bay sable, mink sable, German Fitch, Siberian squirrel, water mink, ladies' fur hoods, ladies' skating caps, gentlefine fur caps, collars and gloves, all of which will be sold in sets or single articles at less prices than other house in the city. Don't forget the place, Wm. Fleming, No. 129 Wood street, sign of the large Gilt Hat.

Skates for Skaters.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather for skating, the demand for Skates still continues. Messrs Day & Hayden, of Wood street, request purchasers of these articles to drop into their establishment, as they feel satisfied they can suit all tastes. Their stock of Straps embraces all styles, and are manufactured of the very best material.

Turkeys.

Just received 500 hundred Turkeys. Also, 600 lbs. Butter. Hotel keepers and shippers would do well by giving us a call. Mrs. Russell, Market alley, below Fifth street.

Rich Ointment, &c.

Itch—Swayne's Ointment.
Tetter—Swayne's Ointment.
Pimples—Swayne's Ointment.
Ring Worm—Swayne's Ointment.
Salt Rheum—Swayne's Ointment.
Old Sores—Swayne's Ointment.
For all eruptions of the skin use Swayne's Ointment. Sold at the only agency here, McClarran & McKennan, 85 Market street, near Fifth.

Chief of Police.

MAYORS OFFICE:—I have understood that there is a report current in the city to the effect that Mr. McCarthy had promised me the position of Chief of Police in the case he should be elected Mayor. I do not brand the statement as a falsehood. I never asked for the position, was not promised it, and would not accept the same if tendered me.

DAVID R. HALL.

Dry Goods Merchants

Will be interested to know that previous to the recent advance in the prices of most kinds of dry goods the Messrs. Barker & Co., 59 Market street, invested themselves liberally with goods, and are now enabled, in consequence, to exhibit some twenty-five or thirty different kinds of bleached and brown muslins, and full lines of prints, which they are selling at Western Eastern prices—not only saving expense of travel and transportation, but something handsome besides to those merchants who favor them with their patronage. They have just received two large invoices of flannels, blankets, pant stuffs, ticking, &c., all of which they offer at most unusual bargains. Also, shawls, long and square, black and white check, black and grey, &c. Merchants can be satisfied that our Western mercantile, contemplating visiting or ordering from the East, will find it to their advantage to try this firm before doing so.

Great Bargains

In blankets at the clearance sale, at Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Shawls and Cloaks.

If you would buy these cheap, go to the great clearance sale at Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Dress Goods

Of all kinds closing out cheap, at the great clearance sale at Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Hair Brushes,

Beautiful patterns, inlaid in ivory and plain, suitable for presents. Also, dressing cases, perfume boxes, ladies' purses, morocco wallets, cologne and extracts, in large cut and Bohemian bottles, elegant designs. Call in and examine our stock. McClarran & McKennan, successors to the late McClarran & Co., 85 Market street, corner Diamond, near Fifth street.

The Daily Commercial

PANIC AMONG THE DRESSMAKERS.—The ruling of certain clauses of the internal revenue law has spread consternation throughout the ranks of the milliners and dressmakers in the country. It is known that a tax of six per cent. has been levied upon all manufactured articles, but it has not been generally understood to what extent that would bear upon the dressmaking and clothing interests generally. Only six per cent. upon the gross receipts of the dressmaker and the milliner for their labor, but upon the cost of the material that they pass through their hands, thus, for instance, a velvet dress, the value of which, with trimmings, would be $25, the tax on the material would be, perhaps, $25, the taxes $31 50, raising the dressmaker's charge, in itself moderate, to the exorbitant sum of $56 50. Further study of Straps embraces all styles, and are manufactured of the very best material.

MINING BUREAU.—An organization, styled the American Bureau of Mines, has been formed in New York, with the object of bringing more trained talent to the management of coal mining operations. It will be managed by a board of trustees, composed of some prominent business men of New York, and it will place at the disposal of mining enterprises the services of a board of experts, including mining engineers and professors of science allied to mining. Their functions will be to examine mining properties, prepare plans, estimate costs, etc., and for this service the bureau will charge a moderate rate. It will also devote itself to promoting the development of our mining interests and the exploration of our latent resources.

NEW YORK CITY POLITICS.—The talk about the New York Mayoralty election has been revived by Hon. John T. Hoffman's declaration at the dinner given him, that he had not yet resigned his office as Recorder, and should not until his election to the Mayoralty had been decided beyond dispute. This was probably said in jest, but many people are in earnest in the belief that more than sixteen hundred votes illegitimately by which he was counted were illegally cast for him, and these have been all rejected made to a great deal of Mulrahyism though it is not expected that the matter will ever be so far proven as to affect the validity of Mr. Hoffman's election.

FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

THE RECENT HEAVY ROBBERY.

Christmas Festivities in Washington.

Special dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.
WASHINGTON, December 25.

The Robbery of the $15,000 Package

Of greenbacks, stolen from a paymaster day before yesterday, while in Jay Cook & Co.'s bank, has set the detectives at the closest work, but as yet nothing has transpired to indicate whither the rogue has fled. A package of money sent from here to New York last night was arrested in transitu, but merely for the purpose of clearing any suspicion that might inadvertently have attached itself to the person in charge.

Christmas.

Nothing of note has transpired to-day connected with the Christmas festivities. All the churches have been open, but less than the usual congregations were called out, owing to unpleasant weather. Rain and fog have prevailed unremittingly.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The bark Haines, from Hayti for Boston, went ashore near Nantucket, during the gale on Friday night, and all hands perished.

The Merchants' Exchange, at Montreal, a large four story stone building, was destroyed by fire on Sunday night.

A letter from Montreal says the retirement of Sir George Brown from the Cabinet was on the question of friendly or unfriendly commercial relations with the United States. Sir George taking the friendly side, and being outnumbered by the advocates of the opposite policy.

Mr. Griffin, Superintendent of the Andersonville Prison Cemetery, has been relieved by General Wilson. Mr. H. R. Wellon, now in charge, has published a notice to all persons interested in recovering the remains of soldiers interred there, stating that the Express Company has agreed to transport the remains of soldiers from that point to any part of the United States, including box, for fifty dollars. All that is necessary is to address Mr. Wellon at Andersonville.

Advices from San Domingo say the recent Spanish invasion left havoc and devastation wherever the Spanish troops penetrated. The invaders did not confine their depredations to the possessions of the natives, but destroyed or carried off property indiscriminately, regardless of the nationality of the owners. Many Americans and Englishmen are sufferers to large amounts.

News from Yucatan to the 5th instant says the Juarez government of the Empire of Mexico through Yucatan continued to be unsettled, with constant native ovations. She is said to have given large amounts to the free schools, hospitals, and for distribution among the poor.

A mail, ordered by General Grant, and signed by a number of other prominent officers of the army and navy, has been issued for a public meeting, to take into consideration the best means of providing for the soldiers' widows and orphans, and forming a permanent association which shall have their welfare as its object.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

It is said that the citizens of Atlanta, Ga., are about forming a regiment of militia, in order to defend the city of murderers and robbers.

A. A. Bradley, a mulatto, formerly expelled from the bar at Boston, was sentenced at Savannah to a year's imprisonment, by a military court, for using seditious language.

The Montreal correspondent of the New York *Tribune* states that the American Consul there has decided that goods entered for exportation duties in United States must be entered at duty paid value in Canada, instead of their value in bond.

The sale of the Treasurer of Pulaski county, Indiana, at Winnemack, was broken open on Sunday night and between seven and eight thousand dollars stolen.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* of Tuesday, says: Yesterday afternoon a number of men engaged on the Dayton and Western Railroad, near Richmond, Indiana, took passage on a train bound for Dayton, and refused to pay their fare. A difficulty ensued, in the course of which two were killed and several contented. The baggage master of the train was also wounded.

A New York dispatch says: The condition of Wm. H. Russ, the wealthy suicide, is quite favorable, so that Miss Fanny Dayton in Brooklyn on Saturday, is quite favorable to recovery. Miss Dayton's condition is very low. She will hardly recover.

The New York *Herald's* Vera Cruz correspondence, dated the 15th inst., says that the old Imperialist rumor that Juarez has resigned the Presidency, and Mexico is in a state of anarchy is being circulated. The story is a canard, and intended, as in previous cases, to affect the Mexican Republic loans. The Imperialists, just before the sailing of every steamer, get dated up and circulate some rumor to bolster up Maximillian's cause in the public mind of Europe.

A Shaffer, (Venango Oil region) dispatch of the 25th says: At 115 A. M. to-day, a fire broke out in the Ocean House, destroying it and the whole of the town, from Donnelly & Co.'s oil office to the Post Office, was consumed in two hours. Parson's Hotel is among the ruins. All shops and stables adjoining the back of this row were consumed. Donnelly & Co.'s office, the Union Center street were saved. The wind was favorable for the safety of the oil platforms, and all of were burned. Two stores and four hotels were the bulk of the buildings consumed. Mr. Wyatt Bennett, a merchant quarreling with his murderer, who has escaped.

Mr. Francis Smith, the merchant who was shot at his residence in Brooklyn at four o'clock, on Sunday evening last, by a burglar, was in a comfortable though low condition on Monday night. No positive clue to the assassin had been obtained up to Monday evening.

Dr. Christopher Weltz, an eminent surgeon and physician, for many years past connected with the Coroner's office, died suddenly on Sunday evening.

A New York dispatch of yesterday says: There is considerable excitement in the city owing to the promulgation, by the Senatorial party of Fenians, of certain documents bearing upon the present Fenian troubles. A letter from James Stephens, obtained at the Dublin trial, denominates O'Mahoney as a drag chain and stumbling block. The manifesto of the Senate is pointed and frank and is to begin in favor the retirement of both O'Mahoney and the Senate.

In the case of Rev. M. L. P. Thompson, of the Second Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati, heretofore noticed in the COMMERCIAL, the Presbytery, at a meeting on Saturday, found him guilty of falsehood and deception. The closing paragraph of the record states that "notwithstanding the professed penitence apparently unfeigned penitence of the accused, the Presbytery, in view of conduct so highly culpable in its own nature, and so palpably inconsistent with the character of a minister of the Gospel required by the Christian profession, do solemnly suspend the said M. L. P. Thompson from the Gospel ministry, carefully admonishing him to true and deep repentance, and to fruits meet for the same."

The Sandusky *Register* is informed that a singular disease has broken out among chickens, in Portland township, Erie county. It first manifests itself about the comb and gills, which usually turn black, and a singular gaping or sneezing, at which stage the fowl usually inclines over lifeless. It has already made its appearance in several different parts of that county.

Sir Frederick Bruce, British Ambassador at Washington, has been appointed umpire to joint commission representing the United States and the Republic of Columbia for the settlement of claims arising out of the Panama riots.

Major General James Shields is now on a visit to St. Louis. He has made some purchases of land in Northern Missouri, and intends to become a citizen of that State.

The bark Theomutes, which sailed from Cleveland on the 23d of October, with 3,000 barrels of petroleum, for Messrs. Hussey & McBride, arrived at Liverpool in twenty-three days from the time she left the mouth of the St. Lawrence and forty-seven days from Cleveland. The passage was a quick one and a profitable one to the owners.

A New York letter has the following concerning Major General Dix:

It will doubtless surprise many of our readers to learn that the officer who gave that memorable order "If any man attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot," is also one of the best translations of that noble Latin hymn, "Dies Irae." Although not generally known as such Gen. Dix is one of our ripest scholars, never having forgotten his love for the studies of earlier manhood and the busy scenes of mature years. The translation referred to was made by him while in the midst of the progress of the rebellion, and is remarkable for strict adherence to the very difficult metre of the original. It was first printed by the Riverside press for private circulation, but has now been included in "The Seven Great Hymns of the Mediæval Church," published by A. D. Randolph, of this city.

PITTS.

STATE ITEMS.

Thomas J. Wright, Esq., an old and prominent citizen of Chambersburg, died suddenly a few days ago of apoplexy.

The great lawsuit between the Delaware and Hudson and the Pennsylvania Canal Company is not yet concluded. Nor is there any probability of its ending. It has already cost two companies nearly three quarters of a million of dollars.

The citizens of Greenville, Mercer county, are agitating the question of removing the county seat from Mercer to that place. They propose, if the change is made, to build at their expense a neat and handsome court house and a secure jail, to be used by the county, instead of the old shells now in use, thus relieving the county of over one thousand dollars in taxes. On Monday, on completion of the Bear Creek, Jamestown and Franklin railroad, Greenville will be the accessible point in the county. There probably will be a county ticket nominated next fall on that issue.

The salary of bank officers, clerks, and tellers is a subject of discussion among Philadelphia capitalists. It is stated as a curious fact, that men engaged in this business, the most responsible and arduous of all clerical duties, receive less by more than any set of men engaged in clerks in the mercantile cities.

Catawissa railway shares continue to advance in the Philadelphia stock market. The last sale of preferred on Saturday was made at 26½, while the common was firm at 24.

OIL AND GOLD.

Another Good Strike on Pithole.

Matters on Dunkard Creek.

MORE GOLD QUARTZ DISCOVERED.

Importance of Sugar Creek Territory.

Late Strike in West Virginia.

Interesting Miscellaneous Items.

There is nothing remarkable relative to operations on Pithole creek, new wells being tested almost daily. The daily production of the wells on the creek is estimated at ten thousand barrels. The greatest strike made recently was on the Rooker Farm, on lease 17, in what is known as the "Hank Lawton Well," which at last accounts was yielding four hundred barrels per day. Well No. 5 has increased its product to two hundred and fifty barrels per day. Five new wells were ready for testing on the Holmden Farm last Thursday.

A new well was struck about ten days ago on Bennehoff Run, partly owned by the Western Union Telegraph Company. It was doing one hundred and fifty barrels on the 16th, and increasing. No. 17, Stevenson Farm, had increased its yield to three hundred barrels per day, with flattering indications of being the biggest well around Petroleum centre.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.
DUNKARD CREEK, PA., December 18th, 1865.

One of the important, if not the most so, of items is that we are to have a post office—a *bona fide* post office, not the sort of one we have been accustomed to, that traveled from house to house and hunted up a new postmaster whenever the old one got tired, as he was very likely to do, as the position was very little sinecure and without salary. The papers have been received, WILLIAM K. MAPEL, Esq., is appointed postmaster, and the new office named Wiley. All communications intended for Boltown, Mapel Farm, etc., should hereafter be addressed to Wiley, Green county, Pa., and I would again warn the public that there is a "Dunkard post office," at Taylortown, and many letters are sent there, and remain a long time, that are intended for this place, by being directed to Dunkard Creek.

Oil matters have been *stute quo*. For some days past a large number of the wells were unable to run, in consequence of the water pipes freezing up. The weather, however, is somewhat unprepared; the creek closed over in one night, and the severity of the weather was felt the more in consequence of the previous mildness; a slight sprinkling of snow fell on Saturday night, but nothing to speak of. It is to-day, and the ice will in all probability be broken up before morning. A valuable young horse was stolen last night (Sunday) from Mr. S. S. Garber, and is generally believed to have been taken to West Virginia. I sincerely hope the scoundrel may be captured and meet with his deserts. For the credit of this region, let us truly be said that little stealing is done. One or two cases of larceny have come under my notice, but nothing of any considerable amount. If they, the horse thieves) undertake to "ply their vocation" here they will assuredly receive Dunkard justice and a short and strong.

Several more quartz veins have been struck since my last. In the Wise Oil company's well, on the Ross Farm, a vein of exceeding hardness was struck, and in all probability they are still in it, as they could only make an inch or two in a watch.

Dr. Hoffman claims a vein of twenty feet in the Snyder well, on Indian creek, West Virginia, near the State line. I spoke of the specimens from this well in a former letter, as you may recollect, being heavy gold quartz, with a severe acid test, and bearing it as only the pure metal can. Should this be verified, and I see no reason for doubting that it will, it will be utterly impossible to estimate the value of these leases. The ten acres of the Wise farm, will from their distance from the great centres of trade and commerce, the expense of attending the transportation of the bullion and machinery, the cost of living and mining, deadening charges of all kinds, be worth a fortune. The reputation of this incidentally rich region is now, as ever, suffering from the greed of the wealthy capitalists, the wild, feverish spirit of speculation, that was so detrimental to the oil interest, and which has driven all enterprise and well directed energy in the community. From these and similar plagues, good Lord deliver us.

I visited Betty's Run and Bonnett's Run a few days since, and was highly pleased with the indications on both streams. Some very fine specimens of gold quartz were found in the well on Bonnett Run, commonly known as the Doolittle Well, and also some Galena—the latter in small quantities, and it is yet unsafe to estimate the last yet as to what it is worth or where it is to be settled. I do not hesitate to say that it will yield from seventy-five to eighty per cent. of pure lead. Several of the quartz specimens were remarkably rich and beautiful. As both streams are tributaries of Dunkard, there is not the least doubt but that they are rich in petroleum. This company has either been very fortunate in the selection of its sites, or a remarkable degree of foresight is manifested, as the outer indications give promise of a rich yield of oil, and the inner of the still more valuable ores. Mr. Ben Gordon, of Connellsville, has lately succeeded in securing a valuable lease on Meadow Run, midway between the famous Cowell and Wise farms, and from what I have repeatedly assayed at the Mint and elsewhere, and always with the same result, the factory will be in full blast in a very little while. Nothing could add more to the interest of this section than the location of a woolen factory,

The Daily Commercial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence on matters of public interest is solicited and will be thankfully received from our friends in all parts of the country, when accompanied by responsible names. More especially whatever relates to the discovery and production of oil lands and refineries of intelligence in general, will be acceptable and is desired. Events of local interest, mechanical and agricultural results, inventions and improvements of every description, clearly and briefly described, are solicited. To secure attention, communications should be brief and entirely reliable, and should be sent as promptly as possible.

Letters concerning the business department of the newspaper or printing office should be addressed to the Business Manager. Communications designed for the paper should be addressed to the Editor.

TAKING COUNSEL OF THE PEOPLE.

Precisely why Congress adjourned from the 20th of December till the 5th (practically till the 9th) of January, we have seen no explanation. We hope that even if it was no the reason the fact will be that the members wished to seek and that they will obtain instruction of their constituents. There is no kind of doubt as to what it will be; and if it is listened to there will be no time lost in debates about abstract questions, but questions of great national moment will be taken up without unnecessary delay. The laws relating to taxation and revenue need early attention.

Whether certain States have or have not been out of the Union for a certain period, is a question quite insignificant compared with the adjustment of the tariff and tax laws. The one can be postponed for any length of time, and meantime will settle itself so far as there is anything practical in it, by the States resuming their just relations and responsibilities in the Union; but the questions relating to our financial necessities, to the condition of the freedmen, and to supplying the wants created by the destruction of the slave code, and other questions relating to the immediate welfare of the nation, await the attention of Congress. Inevitably members must decide for themselves whether, in considering those questions, they will do so in the light of a restored Union, or a territorial South. If Representatives seek instruction from their constituents on this point, they will, we think, find it without difficulty. It will be embraced in two ideas,—perfect loyalty to the country and entire faithfulness to the cause of freedom. If men seeking seats in Congress, are loyal, can take the required oath and have the certificates, why should they not be admitted? Slavery has been abolished forever, and it is the duty of Congress to provide whatever has been rendered necessary by the great change. Let Congress do its duty. We presume this will be the sum and substance of the popular instruction Representatives will receive from their constituents.

CONCERNING MEXICO.

Concerning Mexico there are two reports of considerable interest—one from Panama, by the way of San Francisco, and rather indefinite, to the effect that a revolution had taken place against MAXIMILIAN, and "that LOPEZ and his officers had been driven from power." A report so vague, while it may relate to a formidable and important movement, should be received with considerable caution. The other report is on better authority, and relates to the withdrawal of the French troops from Mexico. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* asserts with great positiveness that "the Emperor of France will not withdraw his troops until positive information is received from this Government that it will neither interfere nor permit of interference on the part of its citizens in the affairs of that country. This is, in reality, the position of the Government now; but what the Emperor wants is an assurance that this position will not be changed."

It is preposterous to suppose this country can enter into any such arrangement as this. Public opinion, our permanent interest and traditionary policy are all opposed to it. Mr. THADDEUS STEVENS is credited with the suggestion, that France having loaned MAXIMILIAN men and money to a considerable extent, our policy should be to make a similar loan to JUAREZ. It must be conceded that this accords far better with the settled policy, and present temper of the country than the course said to be insisted on by France, which is simply impossible. There is no likelihood of its being adopted; at the same time the immediate adoption of Mr. STEVENS's method of solving the problem cannot be said to be very probable. On the contrary, the appointment of LEWIS D. CAMPBELL, Minister to Mexico, denotes steady adherence to the opposite policy. This gentleman, though less hostile to MAXIMILIAN than General LOGAN, is said to be decidedly opposed to yielding up the Monroe doctrine.

FACTS VS. THEORIES.

It is urged against President JOHNSON's policy that it deals too kindly with the South. It may not be a complete answer, nevertheless the fact that our leading generals, and we believe a great majority of the late army also, favor it, is of some weight and entitled to consideration. But what has been accomplished? As the result of the President's policy steadily adhered to, slavery has been forever abolished through the ratification of the constitutional amendment by eight Southern States. The constitution of every recognized State contains a provision prohibiting slavery. The repudiation of the rebel war debt has been another condition promptly accepted, with but one exception, we believe. As the same end is to be attained by amending the Constitution, the action of the State is not absolutely essential. Nevertheless the disposition shown by the South in this respect should not be overlooked. These are results which could have been accomplished in no other way. Have they been accomplished too soon? The President's policy and aims are strictly national; under it the doctrine of State Rights has been blown to the winds. Secession has not a particle of anything left to stand upon. Everything of the kind has been demolished.

It is not to be disguised that something remains to be done, but under what plan could more, or even half so much, have been done, as has been under the President's policy? Abstractions and theories amount to but little; practical results are what is needed. The overthrow of the rebellion found the Republic afflicted with disorders requiring immediate and skillful attention. It was no time for wasting breath in quarrels over irrelevant questions; the absolute need was practical remedies and kindly care. This has been the treatment of the nation's disorders by the President, and those who care more for facts than theories, it seems to us, have abundant reason for rejoicing, not only that President JOHNSON has had a policy, but that it was one that has wrought out so much permanent good.

A WRITER in the *United Service Magazine* for December, argues against conferring on soldiers of the standing army the right to vote. "They will soon find," says the writer, "that they possess united influence "and united privileges under the laws of "the State, and it will not be long before "they, like the Praetorian Guard of Ancient Rome, will imagine themselves the "State; and should their marked preferences not be complied with by the non-combatant portion of the community, "then bayonets and cartridges would prove "powerful and convincing arguments." The writer concludes, also, that the introduction of politics into the army, is subversive of its morale, and that soldiers will not be independent voters, because they have not the opportunity and means for procuring the necessary information.

MAJOR GENERAL BARRY has written a note to the editor of the *United Service Magazine* correcting some statements in an article in a recent number of that publication, on the siege of Morris Island. General B. maintains that it was at the seige of Yorktown, under McCLELLAN, that the power of modern long-range guns was first developed,—and a list of guns then used is given, to show that the "weight of metal" of the guns used at Yorktown, was three times as great as those enumerated in the list of those used at Morris Island—mostly Parrotts. Among them were two 200-pounders, eleven 100-pounders, thirteen 30-pounders, twenty-one 20-pounders, ten 4½-inch rifles, ten 13-inch sea-coast mortars, and six 10-inch sea-coast mortars. The 200 and 100-pounders were used at ranges varying from four thousand eight hundred and forty yards to five thousand seven hundred and twenty yards,—and thus, says General BARRY, was demonstrated what has been claimed to have first been on Morris Island, the siege of which, he concedes, was in some respects "the most wonderful of any that history makes record of." It is due to truth to say, that McCLELLAN's tremendous batteries and laborious engineering availed nothing against the enemy, whereas at Morris Island they served to produce valuable results. From Yorktown the rebels retired just at the moment we were ready to open our batteries.

THOSE NEGRO INSURRECTIONS.—It is about time to begin to hear something about the insurrections by the negroes, which were to take place throughout the South, dating from Christmas. It is probable we shall await in vain for them. That exaggerated reports will be put in circulation, is to be expected; and in some places there may be disturbances; but we venture to say we shall hear nothing of the general uprising and the horrid deeds which the negroes have been accused of meditating. We hope the negroes have had a good time at Christmas, but we doubt whether it has been much like the days of old, before freedom's privileges and perils.

THE treasurer of the O'Mahony branch of the Fenians, Mr. O'ROURKE, is the engineer in the *Tribune* office, New York. Of him the *Tribune* says: "Mr. O'ROURKE is an Irish-American of the better sort; and we advise him to take good care of his engine and let the Fenians alone. He has nothing to gain by acting as custodian of their funds." This is good advice, and it will apply equally to all concerned.

Washington Topics and Gossip.

NEW BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Immediately upon the reassembling of the House a resolution will be proposed in Congress, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, making voters, instead of population, the basis of representation in the National Legislature.

NEW ARMY ORGANIZATION.

Great labor is being bestowed in Congress, and in the military departments, upon the subject of reorganizing the whole army, in view of the necessary reduction of the force next fall in active service, and also in view of possible contingencies. The old regulars and of course, naturally wish to secure to themselves the best positions, while thousands who have been educated in the late extraordinary struggles, though never previously inured to arms, entertain a just ambition to be considered when the Government is making its selection of officers. The Board, still in session in Washington for the purpose of selecting officers from those who have distinguished themselves by ability and courage, nearly five hundred First and Second Lieutenants for the regular army, is doing a part of the work; but it is when officers of higher grade are to be chosen that the real contest will begin. It is said that the Board selected but regulars; but this cannot be true to a great extent, when we consider that he himself has placed on record the warmest recommendations of hundreds of brave officers who rose from civil life into the army. It is supposed that the regular army of the United States will not be less than 50,000 men, and this will require a considerable addition to the present list of officers. Every one desires to be knowing how the President feels on this general subject can be satisfied by turning to the *Congressional Globe* of the session of May, 1848, where is published the debate, between Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, and a certain Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, in which the latter undertook to sneer at the mechanics and laboring men, as unfitted to take command in the army, an assertion which was instantly and very roundly rebuked by the former. At the time that Davis spoke, the mechanics and laboring men of the country and not just either the experience of the Mexican war or the still greater, more thorough and unparalleled schooling of the rebellion. I fancy the President will be found to entertain not only the same views which he expressed in his strong reply to Davis on the occasion referred to, but that observation and practical knowledge of the great events in which he has subsequently figured, will make him anxious to see that the regular army contains a large proportion of representatives from the ranks of the masses.

RAILS UPON THE TREASURY.

The proposition made a few days ago in the House to place the soldiers of 1861 and 1862 on the same footing with regard to bounties as those obtained on later calls, however just in itself, is one of those cases which deserves careful reflection before it is decided upon. It is estimated, should Congress legislate in this direction, that more than two hundred millions of dollars will be taken from the Treasury. The combination pressing this measure is a most extensive one, and does not really represent the soldiers, but a class of agents who have insisted themselves in purchasing the claims of these brave men at such contemptibly low rates, as to show how little hope those entitled to them have of ever securing them. It is unpopular to take ground against any such proposal as this, but there should be no squeamishness among the friends of the Government, and particularly among those who know that in order to preserve the national credit, the strictest economy in the future expenditures, and the utmost strictness in the collection of the national revenue, are imperatively necessary. In uniting their influence against these combinations, Hosts of claim agents, adventurers and loafers generally, will no doubt make Congress in the name of the soldiers oppress the passage of this so-called "bounty" bill. Another demonstration, not quite so extensive or threatening, but full of audacity, is the attempt to deprive the Government of some seven million dollars worth of cotton, captured at Savannah from the rebels and justly devoted to the Federal treasury. In this last demonstration, some of the most prominent lawyers of New York are concerned, and if it is said, if they succeed, their fees will average from one to two hundred thousand dollars apiece.

TARIFF OF DUTIES.

The following are some of the results that have been reached by a comparative examination of the revenues from the several tariffs in force from 1821 to 1863, as regards the protection given to domestic manufactures of cottons and woolens; cottons were at an average rate of duty of 25 per cent. from 1821 to 1857, except from 1842 to 1846, when the average duty on foreign cottons reached 26.5 per cent. The average duty fell in 1857 to 24 per cent., and in 1861 to 19 per cent., and in 1862 to 29 per cent., and in 1863 to 36 per cent. The duties on woolens from 1821 to 1860 vary considerably—averaging under the tariff of 1824, 33 per cent., under that of 1824, 40 per centum, and under that of 1832, 46 per centum. But the average fell in 1842, under the Compromise Act, to 20 per centum; then in 1846-1857 to 30 per centum; then in 1857 to 27.5 per centum; and falling again in 1857-1861 to 21.4 per centum; in 1862 it rises to 33.4 per centum, and in 1863 to 58.6 per centum. The tariff of all others the least protective to American industry is that of 1857—its average duty of 20 per centum extending through four years.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

As there is no appropriation now existing for the support of the Freedmen's Bureau, the amendment asked for by General Howard (seven millions) will have to be voted, or else the alternative be allowed of a general breakdown of the whole establishment. The latter is not likely, though there is no idea on the part of the President, Gen. Grant and many members of Congress that this Bureau is more than a temporary affair. The Executive has already pledged his word that it shall be abolished in every State as soon as they exhibit a sincere willingness to protect the freedmen, and it would have been abolished long since had this disposition been shown. The colored people, therefore, have themselves to thank for a continuance of the operations of the Bureau in their States.

ENDORSEMENT OF SECRETARY STANTON.

It is significant that the joint committees of Congress, appointed for the purpose of paying a proper National tribute to the immortal memory and services of Abraham Lincoln, on the coming anniversary of his birth, the 12th day of February, 1866, should have selected Edwin M. Stanton as the eulogist of the martyr President, and that his selection should have been approved by both Houses when the report was presented, without a single dissenting voice.

ADMITTING SOUTHERN MEMBERS.

Despite the assertion that Stevens has the whole question of admitting Southern members locked, the President yesterday expressed his firm belief that no Representative who held aloof publicly from aiding the rebellion would be denied the privilege and right to a seat upon the floor of either body.

GREAT CHANGE OF SENTIMENT IN THE SOUTH.

Since the President's special message of Tuesday last, letters and information from the South concur in stating that even more than was required by the President will now be voluntarily accomplished by the recently seceded States, and that many who have been fiercest to resist the progress of radical ideas will become prominent in advocating, if not the extension of suffrage to the colored men, at least the bestowal upon them of the limited privileges. Ex-Senator Mallory, still in confinement, writes to his old friends the most powerful letters in favor of the strongest measures of the Republican extremists in Congress.

"After the War."

The *Tribune*, looking over the field since the war, discourses some curious things thus: "One of our leaders is now in charge of a machine for patent pumping; another is building a railway through the oil country. One of the first soldiers of the Army of the Potomac is in the pistol business; another keeps a retail grocery store; while one of Sherman's most trusted lieutenants is a claim agent. One Major General prints a weekly journal in Baltimore. Some of our officers have drifted into Congress; others are on their way to distant Courts to represent the honor of a nation they did so much to sustain. These starred and belted gentlemen go down from the command of cohorts to become agents and partners and dealers perhaps with the orderly who stood before their tents or the private who held the stirrup. So with the Generals of the rebellion. The greatest of them all is now a teacher of mathematics in a university. Sherman's great antagonists are in the express and railroad business. The one-time Brigadier is running a saw mill; Dick Taylor is now having a good time in New York; Roger A. Pryor is a daily practitioner at our courts, and so with the rest of this bold, vindictive and ambitious race of men. The Government against which they warred is now their friend and protector."

A CASE is now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States directly affecting the constitutionality of the Congressional test oath, and as the argument is over and the judges are considering the question, a formal decision may soon be looked for, which, if it sustains the oath, as we presume it will, must set at rest all the clamor against it, and lead to the withdrawal of all Congressmen or candidates who cannot take the required obligation. This case illustrates how this great tribunal may by its decisions materially affect the condition of parties in the work of reconstruction. The validity of the anti-slavery amendment to the national Constitution cannot be tested in the Supreme Court without putting at issue the status of the reorganized States which have ratified it.

DR. JOHN W. HUGHES, who has been on trial at Cleveland several days, for the murder of Miss Tamzen Parsons, in Bedford, Cuyahoga county, on the 9th of August last, has been convicted of murder in the first degree. He heard the verdict with apparent indifference. The murder was one of the most shocking, all things considered, ever committed in Ohio. Hughes was once an inmate of Allegheny Penitentiary.

COLORS FROM PETROLEUM.

Triumphs of Science—New and Important Invention.

The public is familiar with the fact that expert French chemists have succeeded in manufacturing a number of beautiful dye colors from coal tar, but few have heard of Frederici's process of extracting and manufacturing dye colors, writing and printing ink, oil and water paints, etc., from crude petroleum or residuum. The French trade of manufacturing dye colors, known as aniline colors, and used for dying silks and other fabrics, and sold under the names of Magenta, Solferino, Roseaniline, Humboldt blue, &c., from coal tar, is a very delicate and difficult one, and only to be conducted successfully by the skillful chemist. The process consists, first, of the extraction of benzole from coal tar, by what is termed fractional distillation, a very difficult operation; after which follows the conversion of benzole into nitro-benzole; then the distillation of nitro-benzole to obtain the coloring principle known as aniline, which has then to be treated by a further chemical process to convert it into sulphate of aniline, and a great variety of other salts of aniline, after which these beautiful colors have to be imparted to these salts of aniline by means of the admixture of certain chemical compounds, and finally the washing and crystalization of the coloring matter into a solid form, ready for the consumer.

Frederici's process of extracting and manufacturing dye colors, writing and printing inks, oil and water color paints, &c., is thus described: The crude petroleum, or, the residuum, which answers equally as well, is put into a revolving distilling apparatus, and treated with superheated steam and various chemical compounds at a high temperature, and, without any of the uncertainty attending the manufacture from coal tar. The dirty black residuum is converted into a beautiful white, crimson, purple and blue, and other colors, according to the combination of chemicals introduced into the apparatus with the petroleum. The process appears to consist in deodorizing and bleaching the petroleum by means of powerful chemicals and superheated steam, and combining certain chemicals to strike the desired tints and colors, and the drying and grinding of the same into paints, dye colors, inks, &c.

The machinery and apparatus used in this wonderful process is also of a scientific nature, and patents are granted for the same. It consists of a series of hollow cylinders, six feet in diameter, connected together by large tubes placed in an oblique direction, and opening at the ends into the cylinders. This is mounted on an iron shaft, and a double spiral runs through its many fittings, is encased in an immensely strong iron boiler, and revolved by an engine, in order to create great agitation of the products distilling. The mechanical difficulties overcome appear to have been very difficult, as the process requires a revolving machine or distilling apparatus which has to resist the action of concentrated acids at a high temperature, and a pressure of superheated steam of many hundred pounds to the square inch, and although the apparatus is made only to resist a pressure of about ten pounds to the square inch, yet by a very ingenious contrivance it is made to resist many hundreds—such as would burst any ordinary boiler. This is accomplished by admitting a pressure of steam from the supply pipes, which is of the inside; also, to envelope the outside of the apparatus, and by this means the pressure is reduced to little or nothing at all. The great problem in inventing such an apparatus was to carry off from a revolving machine the product distilled through a stationary pipe, while the whole is encased in a stationary boiler, without carrying off the crude material. The apparatus has to resist the action of concentrated acids at a high temperature, which is accomplished by coating the inside by means of electro-galvanism with gold and platinum, and some of the large pieces, being six feet in diameter. This feat is something greater than anything of the kind ever done in this country before, this operation was conducted by Professor Frederici, at his private laboratory, in New York, and suggests the construction of stills for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, and for re-distilling the acid after the treatment of refined oil, as the cost is much less than solid platinum apparatus.

These are some of the uses to which Frederici has practically applied his process. The manufacture of black, blue, crimson and purple, and other colored writing and printing inks; beautiful dye colors for dyeing silks and other fabrics, as Magenta, Solferino, crimson, blue, purple, &c.; oil and water colors, for artists and fresco painters; coloring matter for printing wall papers; paper finer finished material for coloring liquors and confectionery, which is as harmless as a little charcoal or cod liver oil taken into the stomach, and it makes the most beautiful vinegar de rouge for ladies' toilets.

These are a few of the uses to which Professor Frederici has put his process. Large fortunes have been made by the coal tar invention, by the Renyard Bros., of France, and Messrs. Perkins, of England, and if this process of Prof. Frederici, who comes to us with good reference, should prove successful, would it not be well for some of our manufacturing capitalists to introduce this wonderful machine and its processes into our city? Mr. Frederici is now in the city, a guest at the Monongahela House.

THE AMERICAN WOOL TRADE.

Organization of National Wool Growers' Association—State Organization Wanted—Important Interrogatories.

A large and influential meeting of wool growers was held at Syracuse, N. Y., on the 5th and 6th instants, at which was organized the National Wool Growers' Association, having for officers Hon. H. S. Randall, of N. Y., President; Wm. F. Greer, of Ohio, Secretary, and Henry Clark, of Vermont, Treasurer. The first annual meeting of the Association will be called by the President, it is thought, in January, to be next held in Cleveland, Ohio. Every member of the several State and district wool associations is, by virtue of such membership, a member of the National Association. The wool growers of Pennsylvania—more particularly of Western Pennsylvania—are urged to immediately form a State Wool Growers' Association, for the better protection of their interests. It is a matter of surprise that such a State institution has not been formed ere this. The wool of Western Pennsylvania has long been celebrated for its quality and desirableness—particularly for the fineness of its grade. This is proved by the fact that the sales of thirty years past indicate that the highest price was paid for Western Pennsylvania wool on account of its being the finest wool grown in the country. The wool growers of Pennsylvania can afford to be no less unrepresented in the National Association, nor can they without serious loss remain without a State organization. There is no more available way in which they can learn the advances they are making in this great and important branch of agriculture, it affording an opportunity of comparing notes and suggestions for the encouragement and marketing of their product. Nor is there any better way than through State and National Associations for growers to be protected in the national legislature. The organization of the National Wool Growers' Association renders it imperative on wool growers to form State associations in order to send delegates to be represented in the national body, and to thus exhibit the influence that this indispensable commodity and enterprising branch of agriculture should command in Congress. Without proper protection the American wool grower must cease to grow fine wool and our manufacturers cease to manufacture it, or else, so that the American people, to a great extent, will be clothed with wool grown and manufactured in Europe. When will the wool growers of the State organize a Pennsylvania Association? It should be organized without delay, if the growers of Pennsylvania desire to judge the rank in the National Association they of right should occupy.

President Randall, of the National Wool Growers' Association, has addressed the subjoined interrogatories to the wool growers of the country, at the request of the United States Revenue Commissioner, in order that the wool interest may be properly understood and fostered in the regulation of the tariff. Answers to the interrogatories, to be made available, should be directed to Henry S. Randall, Cortland Village, New York:

1. Please state your relations with the growing, sale, or manufacture of wool.

2. State, as far as you can, the extent and condition of wool production in the United States, at periods of ten years' interval, since 1840.

3. State the wages you pay to laborers engaged in the production of wool.

4. State the increase in wages paid to such laborers during the last ten years.

5. State the increased cost of the subsistence of such laborers during the last ten years.

6. What kind or grade of wool are you growing?—and, taking all the elements of expense, including Internal Revenue, and all other taxes, into consideration, what does it cost you per pound to produce it? (State whether your estimate refers to washed or unwashed wool.)

7. State any facts in your possession in relation to the present and past cost of labor, and the cost of subsistence employed in wool production in foreign countries.

8. From these data, what do you estimate to be the comparative cost of producing wool in such countries and in the United States?

9. State, so far as you can, the prices received by you for your wool each year for the last ten years.

10. State the average prices of wool, of different grades, for a series of years, (giving the sources of your information,) and distinguishing the average annual prices under the several tariffs.

11. How do the profits of wool growing compare with those of other leading agricultural products in your locality?

12. Under existing circumstances, is the production of wool likely to increase or decrease in your section of the country?

13. What additional protection, beyond that given by the present tariff, is, in your judgment, needed to insure the continuance of the present amount of wool production, and to secure its increase?

14. Which, in your opinion, would best protect the American wool grower, specific or *ad valorem* duties?

15. Where should the valuation upon which these duties are levied be made, at the place of export or entry?

16. In your opinion, are or are not different and extensive portions of the United States severally well adapted by climate, vegetation and other circumstances, to the production of each of the several classes of wool; and are they not capable of supplying all those wools required for domestic consumption now and for all time to come?

17. If the production of wool was made as profitable as that of other agricultural products, to what extent would its production be likely to be increased in your locality?

18. Would protection equal to that which should be given to woolen manufactured articles enable the grower to supply the amount of wool manufactured in the United States?

19. What has been the effect of the Reciprocity Treaty, which admits the agricultural products of Canada, and the other British North American provinces free of duty, in reducing the production and price of wool in the United States?

20. What facts can you state showing the incidental and necessary benefits of the increase of the production and manufacture of wool in the United States, such as in the consumption of agricultural and mineral products, the increased employment of labor, and the promotion of the general interests of the country?

21. What, in your judgment, would be the effect upon the price of American wool, in case the American manufacture should be discontinued to such an extent as to make the export value controlling?

22. If the production of American wool were to be discontinued, what would be the effect in case the manufacturing interests of the United States?

23. In your opinion, can any sound argument in favor of Free Trade, in its present financial condition, be deduced from the example of England, France, or any other foreign country?

24. Under the present Tariff, what duties are actually paid on the different grades of wool imported into the United States?

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

A New York paper says that there are $40,000,000 uncirculated deposits in the savings banks of that city. These millions have been accumulating for a century or more in New York, and are now registered as part of the capital stock of the banks, since there is not the remotest probability of any one claiming the immense fund or any portion of it.

The Mayor of St. Louis has called the attention of persons interested in the safety of the steamboats now ice bound at the levee at that city, and requested that the presidents and agents of the several Insurance companies, the captains of the steamers, the Chief of Police, the Chief of the Fire Department, the Harbor Master and the City Engineer immediately confer with him with the view of some concerted action in case of fire or other casualties to the steamers.

An Agricultural Convention at Frankfort, Ky., will be held on the 10th inst., to consider the subject of labor in that State.

The snow storm and gale of last week extended, as far as we have heard, from the Atlantic to beyond the Mississippi, though its principal violence appears to have been spent on the region of the lakes. It extended as far South as St. Louis.

The winter meeting of the Ohio Wool Growers' Association will be held in Columbus, commencing January 24. The Annual Address will be delivered by Dr. S. S. Rowland, of Avon, Lorain county.

The Louisville *Journal*, on account of the 25 per cent. advance on paper during the last month, has raised its subscription rates from $10 to $12 per year.

Secretary McCulloch has returned to Washington from New York. It is understood that he declines to transfer Mr. H. H. Van Dyke from the Asst't U. S. Treasurership to the New York Custom House. Mr. Van Dyke will not continue in his present place unless the salary is raised. He has been offered the presidency of one of the New York city banks, at a salary of $25,000. He is now receiving $3,000 as Assistant Treasurer. He is said to be an able man, and, it is reported, will be generally satisfactory to the New York commercial delegation.

The great frequency of railroad accidents, and the attendant destruction of life, are calling public attention to the necessity of radical reforms in the general system of railroad management. The New York *Times* lays the blame to a great extent upon the ill-construction of our roads. The rails are fastened together by "chairs," leaving them frequently some distance apart, and often quite projecting above the timber. In Europe, these rails are firmly united by what is known as a fish joint and the track is thus made continuous, and the chief cause of destructive accidents thus avoided.

The fish-joint rail is being introduced on some of the Western roads, some of them the Pacific Railroad of Missouri, on which a number of miles have already been laid. The company design to replace all their old-fashioned rails with the new pattern as rapidly as they can do so.

All the ice dence in the New York Strong divorce case is now in on both sides, and the summing up was to commence yesterday. Counsel on each side, it is thought, will consume two days. It must be a rather hard case that requires so much talk to make it presentable to a jury.

The New York Custom House authorities and the U. S. District Attorney in the same city, are engaged in the alleged fitting out of privateers at that port to depredate on French and Spanish commerce. The result of the examination, it is said, has yet been reached, has not transpired, but no vessel will be permitted to leave port with arms or ammunition on board, unless satisfactory reasons can be given for her appearance. Some time since instructions of the most stringent character in regard to a contingency of this kind, was received by the acting Collector from Washington, and to these a scrupulous regard will be paid.

John Stuart Mill writes from the continent to a friend in England:

"I am very happy to hear that a general meeting is to be held to express the indignation due to the lawless and brutal proceedings of the Jamaica authorities, and I hope it will express our detestation not only of the disavowal and reprobation of the crimes perpetrated under pretense of martial law, but of martial law itself, and also the condign punishment of the perpetrators.

In Minnesota, for a few days past, the railroad trains have stopped running, the thermometer indicating twenty-four degrees below Zero.

The Adjutant General of the War Department has decided that members of the First Army Corps, on being discharged on account of expiration of term, will not receive transportation allowances from the Pay Department, but will be furnished with transportation in kind by the Quartermaster's Department to the station of the District Provost Marshal who furnished transportation to Washington, or a designated field Provost Marshal, under the instructions laid down in Circular No. 8, series of 1864, from this office. Quartermasters furnishing transportation are directed to note the fact on the discharge papers of the soldier.

The United States naval supply steamer Newbern, which recently arrived from the Gulf Squadron, is now discharging her cargo at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the usual list of naval trophies of the late war. Among these are the guns captured by Admiral Porter's fleet in the attack on the rebel batteries at Fort Fisher, Mississippi; also the large Armstrong guns which composed the battery of the rebel ram Tennessee, sunk by Admiral Farragut's fleet in Mobile Bay, Alabama.

A company, with a capital of $100,000, has been formed for the cultivation of grapes in Mifflin county, Ohio. They expect to realize large profits.

It is said that the trade of Paris last $20,000,000 by the cholera.

Webster's spelling book is in such great demand for the reconstruction of the South that American printers cannot supply the demand, and English publishers have been called in to print it. Over one million copies have been sold since April, and orders are now one hundred thousand in advance of the supply.

The New York State Cheese Manufacturers' Association will hold their third annual meeting in Utica on Wednesday and Thursday, January 10th and 11th. The number of persons engaged in cheese dairying in New York alone, and with the difficulty of uniformity connected with this association, is said to be more than twenty thousand.

The lumbering season in the Maine woods has already begun with unusual activity. The yield for the coming season, it is said, will hardly fall short of 300,000,000 feet of logs.

One source of sulphur in coal is the presence of sulphate of lime, or plaster of Paris, which suffers decomposition when the coal is heated, and the sulphur is driven off in the form of metallic sulphur gas. This is a source of contamination which is not generally appreciated.

An action has been brought in one of the New York courts by a person claiming that he has been ingrafted upon a million pound of dollars by being described as a colored person in one of the city directories. The error happened in this wise: The person who gathered the names for the directory, in a hurry, made out the collector of ballots, after the man's name. The compositor set it up "colrd," and so it went into type.

St. Paul, with thirteen thousand inhabitants, is to build next season an opera house of ample dimensions, with a stage capable of accommodating between two and three hundred performers.

LIQUOR SUITS AND STATE RIGHTS.—The Constable Association of Massachusetts have for some time past been engaged in enforcing the prohibitory liquor law, of that state, and numerous indictments obtained against violators of the law. Mr. Caleb Cushing, who is head counsel for the associated liquor sellers in Massachusetts, has been wandering among the old laws in Washington, and has there found a federal statute, passed in 1833, and growing out of South Carolina's then attempted nullification of the tariff laws, which provides that in any case which involves the revenue laws, or in which their authority is concerned, the United States Courts may or shall issue their mandamus, and take the case out of the State Courts, and this is the law under which the United States Revenue Commissioner, in order that the revenue laws may be properly understood and fostered in the regulation of the tariff. Answers to the interrogatories, to be made available, should be received by the 5th of January, and should be directed to Henry S. Randall, Cortland Village, New York:

1. Please state your relations with the growing, sale, or manufacture of wool.

2. State, as far as you can, the extent and condition of wool production in the United States, at periods of ten years' interval, since 1840.

3. State the wages you pay to laborers engaged in the production of wool.

4. State the increase in wages paid to such laborers during the last ten years.

5. State the increased cost of the subsistence of such laborers during the last ten years.

6. What kind or grade of wool are you growing?—and, taking all the elements of expense, including Internal Revenue, and all other taxes, into consideration, what does it cost you per pound to produce it? (State whether your estimate refers to washed or unwashed wool.)

7. State any facts in your possession in relation to the present and past cost of labor, and the cost of subsistence employed in wool production in foreign countries.

8. From these data, what do you estimate to be the comparative cost of producing wool in such countries and in the United States?

9. State, so far as you can, the prices received by you for your wool each year for the last ten years.

10. State the average prices of wool, of different grades, for a series of years, (giving the sources of your information,) and distinguishing the average annual prices under the several tariffs.

11. How do the profits of wool growing compare with those of other leading agricultural products in your locality?

12. Under existing circumstances, is the production of wool likely to increase or decrease in your section of the country?

13. What additional protection, beyond that given by the present tariff, is, in your judgment, needed to insure the continuance of the present amount of wool production, and to secure its increase?

14. Which, in your opinion, would best protect the American wool grower, specific or *ad valorem* duties?

15. Where should the valuation upon which these duties are levied be made, at the place of export or entry?

16. In your opinion, are or are not different and extensive portions of the United States severally well adapted by climate, vegetation and other circumstances, to the production of each of the several classes of wool; and are they not capable of supplying all those wools required for domestic consumption now and for all time to come?

17. If the production of wool was made as profitable as that of other agricultural products, to what extent would its production be likely to be increased in your locality?

18. Would protection equal to that which should be given to woolen manufactured articles enable the grower to supply the amount of wool manufactured in the United States?

19. What has been the effect of the Reciprocity Treaty, which admits the agricultural products of Canada, and the other British North American provinces free of duty, in reducing the production and price of wool in the United States?

20. What facts can you state showing the incidental and necessary benefits of the increase of the production and manufacture of wool in the

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

BUSINESS NIGHT SCHOOL.
Central High School Building. Open from 7 to 9 P. M. Terms, for a course of 3 months $10 00, in advance. Book-keeping, Arithmetic, Penmanship, &c., taught by practical accountants. Apply soon, as only a limited number will be received. Address C. C. COCHRAN, book-keeper H. A. Fahnestock, Son & Co.'s, or superintendent at Duff's College. dec27-3t

FOR RENT.
Proposals for renting, for one or more years, the stores and house at the corner of Plum alley and Liberty street, will be received, per Postoffice, until the 1st of January. Rent payable monthly, in advance. dec27-3t JAMES S. CRAFT, No. 29 Hand street.

FOR SALE—
One Set of Room Furniture.
Almost new, with privilege of renting room without board. Apply at No. 60 Fourth street, where room and furniture can be seen. dec27-3t

TO LET—
A New Two Story Brick House,
With seven rooms, on Wilson street Eighth Ward, East three hundred and sixty dollars per year.
Inquire of
S. L. FULLWOOD,
U. S. Telegraph office, cor. Fifth and Smithfield sts. dec27

TO LET—
A Good House,
In a first rate locality, very convenient to Pittsburgh, in Allegheny. In a small family that will board part and wife. Will sell a portion of the furniture. Address dec27-2t "J. K. B." Allegheny.

COFFEE, COFFEE.
Just received by the "Amelia Gehring," direct from Rio de Janeiro,
350 bags strictly prime Rio Coffee,
Which we offer to the trade at lowest Eastern prices.
A. McCLURKEN & CO.
dec27-6t 93 and 95 First street.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF } Pittsburgh, December 26, 1865.
☞ ELECTION NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of said Company will take place on MONDAY, the 1st day of January, 1866, between the hours of 2 and 4 P. M., at the office of the Company in Wilkins Hall, Fourth street, city aforesaid, at which time and place the stockholders will elect one President and six Directors, one Treasurer, and such other officers as they think necessary to conduct the business of the Company for the ensuing year. By order of the Board.
THOS. SLEES,
dec27-td Secretary.

PROPOSALS.
Those who may be disposed to furnish Hickory and Oak Wood Coal or straw for the use of the Transport Quartermaster Steamer, are invited to leave Sealed Proposals at the Quartermaster's Office, on or before the 30th day of December, 1865.
Proposals may embrace any one or all of the above articles for one year, commencing on the 1st day of January next. The price of Oak and Hickory Wood to be separate by the cord, to be delivered and corded at the places of delivery by the contractor. No large knotty wood will be received. Coal by the bushel, and Straw by the hundred pounds, should be distinctly stated.
Security will be required for the performance of contracts, and the names of securities should be mentioned in the proposals.
J. ARNOLD, Jr., A. A. Q. M.,
Quartermaster's Office, Allegheny Arsenal, December 26th, 1865. dec27-4t

THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE
FOR MAYOR,
JAMES BLACKMORE.
dec27-td

WE OFFER FOR SALE THE FOLLOWING
Real Estate,
First. All that piece of ground, corner of Pride and Colwell streets, Sixth Ward, being 90 feet front on Pride street, and 60 feet on Colwell street, on which are erected four 1 story stone dwelling houses, each containing five rooms and cellar. Also, one other 1 story brick dwelling house, on the rear of the two dwelling houses. If this property is not sold before 12th January, 1866, it will be for rent. Possession given April 1st, 1866.
Second. Two lots, each 20 by 90 feet, fronting on Colwell street, being about 400 feet south of the above described three story brick dwelling house, finished throughout in good style.
Third. One acre of ground, more or less, on the Second Ward road, south of Lindsey street, and directly opposite Mrs. Palmer's residence; on which is erected one frame house.
Fourth. Eleven building lots, fronting on Coal lane and Chaney street, in city district, adjoining Seventh Ward, each lot 20 by 120 feet.
For price and particulars apply to LOUIS WEYING, on Penn street, between Main and Water, Penn avenue, or by letter to LEIS & BRUGH,
dec27-6w New Castle, Pa.

KERR & EMERY.
7 bbls Roll Butter;
6 " Fresh Eggs;
100 pairs prairie chickens;
" Wild Turkeys, Quails and Poultry.
150 bushels Hickory nuts.
Received on consignment and for sale at 207 LIBERTY STREET. dec27

15,000 GREEN HIDES.
16,000 lbs. Beef Hams, (Mitchell & Ladd's brand.)
30,000 lbs. new Dried Peaches in quarters & halves.
5,000 " new Bacon Shoulders.
5,000 " Hams.
30 Horses new Leaf Lard.
20 kegs " "
500 bbls extra Mess Beef, (Mitchell & Ladd's brand.)
25 Cows for Beef Tongues.
50 bushels Flax Seed.
300 lbs. packed Butter, in firkins.
250 dozen 3 lbs. Canned Peaches, (Anderson & Stetson's.)
30 sacks new Dried Apples.
500 bushels new Corn Meal.
Fish, Butter, Eggs, Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks and Geese. In store and for sale at
COOK, BROS. & CO.'S,

The Daily Commercial

SPEECH OF SENATOR C. WAN,

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

In Reply to Senator Sumner, of Massachusetts, in Defense of President Johnson.

[From the Congressional Globe, December 21.]

MR. COWAN. Mr. President, I am not disposed to allow the speech of the honorable Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) to go to the country without a very brief reply. If that speech be true, and it is a correct picture of the South, then God help us; then this Republic, this Union is at an end; then the great war which we waged for the Union was a folly; then all the blood and treasure which we have expended in that war in order to restore ourselves to companionship with the people of the South have been equally follies. But, Mr. President, is it true? Is it not this a series of *ex parte* statements made up by anonymous letter-writers, people who are down there more than likely stealing cotton, people who are down there in the enjoyment of place and power, people who are interested that the disturbed condition of things which exists there now shall always continue because they make profit of it? Is there any man who has had any experience in the trial of causes, any man who knows anything about the nature of evidence, who does not know that the honorable Senator could have sent his emissaries into any one county in the lately rebellious States, and, from the expressions of knaves and fools and discontented, single ideal people, far more than he has given us in this speech?

We are told here of the exceptional instances of bad conduct on the part of the people of the South. Why, what is the whole history of the world? Where is it to be found all that? If a man were to go through anywhere in the days of old and hunt up what he might suppose to be treasonable expressions, how many could be find? And yet we are told from the whole of this country, from the whole of the evidence in the case, One man out of ten thousand is brutal to a negro, and this is paraded here as a type of the whole people of the South, whereas, nothing is said of the other nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine men who treat the negro well. One such expression is a great deal of dissatisfaction at the present state of affairs, and that is paraded here, while nothing is said of the other ten thousand men who are contented to accept it and make the most of it.

What, then, are we to do? We are to suppose that the people of the Southern States lately in rebellion have been common sense; and when their utterances are in accordance with what is common sense and the dictates of their own interest, we have a right to presume it to be true. But, according to what we have just heard, everything that has come from the people of those States, and from their public bodies, from the representatives of these people, is to be taken as false; and why? Because some cotton agents, some correspondent of a radical newspaper in the North, some office-holder, who has been making profit of the state of things there, chooses to say that the people of the United States is not destroyed there, the honorable Senator says. Have we not heard from almost all the public men of the South that the question was put to the arbitrament of the sword; that they have lost, and that they submit? Have they not acquiesced in the abolition of slavery—that thing of all others which was the most dear to the minds of everybody, that they would submit to? But still further guarantees are wanted; we are not told what they are. What are they? What is wanted? Everybody admits that the negro ought to have his natural rights secured to him. I believe all the moderate, conservative men in this Chamber are fully agreed that every man should have his natural rights secured—the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; the protection of property, limbs and reputation; that he should have the right to sue and be sued, and to testify in courts of justice. The negro has not hitherto been allowed in the Southern States to testify in courts of justice, and why? Because he was a slave. If I had been a citizen of the Southern States when slavery prevailed there, I would have resisted his right to testify in courts.

A witness, like a voter, ought to be a free man; he should not belong to another man. What chance would a man have against the master of slaves, if the slaves could testify? It seems to me that the slave ought not to testify for the same reason that the wife ought not to testify either for or against the husband. Would you ask a negro to testify against his master, to go back to labor and be subjected to his ill-will because of his testimony? Would you allow him to testify for the master as against a party on the other side? Certainly not. But now this state of things has passed away, so how the people of the Southern States themselves, so far as I understand them, are in favor of opening the courts to all these classes of people. And, sir, they must open them for their own security. I am willing to leave that to themselves; their own interest will compel them to allow all people to testify, unless they are excluded by those disabilities that have heretofore excluded witnesses from testifying. If the honorable Senator from Massachusetts, and those who think with him, desired that these people should have the right of suffrage, why not say so broadly?

Mr. Sumner. I do say so.

Mr. Cowan. Very well; that is so much that is clear; make it broadly; we may differ from him, but the people will decide. I am perfectly willing to open every door to them. I do not care which way it is; but the people will decide that question, and they will decide it promptly. If the honorable Senator from Massachusetts wants to hold the doctrine that these States are not States, that they are not constituent members of this Union, that no man has power in a tribunal to which that can be referred. If he wishes to take issue with the President on those points, let the issue be made up, and let us meet it and it will be met. Thank God, in this Government, not like that of Russia, which he has eulogized, there is a power that is and there is a power to whose arbitrament and award we can appeal, and who will settle this thing conclusively.

Now, Mr. President, I am for reconciliation. I wish to have the Union restored. I want the Union means a Union by consent, not by force. I would like to make friends of all the people with whom we have been at war. I would like to put the contest to go on any longer, but are we to make friends of them by telling them they can be compelled to us, and are they to have better by such speeches as have been made by the honorable Senator? Why, sir, it is a very much doubt it. I do not think that he will improve the condition of the southern heart or the condition of the northern heart by inflaming existing these exceptionable cases to the people of this country, and stimulating and exciting their angry passions more than they are excited at this unfortunate in every respect; unfortunate on account of their errors; unfortunate on account of the penalty which has followed those errors, and which they have suffered.

Mr. President, let us look at this testimony. The honorable Senator, as I said before, reads from anonymous letter-writers, from cotton agents, and people of that kind. Now, it does so happen that we have some testimony upon this subject; we have the testimony of the President of the United States, not a summer soldier or sunshine patriot.

Mr. Sumner. I have not read anonymous letters.

Mr. Cowan. They are anonymous so far as we are concerned; and I commend the Senator's prudence in keeping the names of those writers from the public, because I have no doubt that if their names were shown they would not be considered of very great weight. A very much doubt whether there is a single man among them who has ever wielded anything more than a pen, or ever will wield anything. I say that we have the testony of men of unexceptionable veracity; we have the testimony of the President of the United States, who was a Union man, and who was in favor of the Union all the time, and in a place where there was some merit in it. I do not suppose there was any great merit in being a Union man in Massachusetts; I suppose a man would have been very likely to get a lamp-post if he had been anything else there; but the President of the United States was a Union man in the very thick and storm of the battle. He was waylaid while coming hither in order to attend to his official duties in this body. He was sworn in by the Constitution, by the Union, all the way through, steadily and firmly; and, as a compliment to him, the great majority in the body to which he did not belong, and never pretended to belong, conferred upon him the office which, in the providence of God, has made him President of the United States.

Now, sir, you are told here that this man, in his official communication to the Senate of the United States, while he uses the condition of things down below. Yes sir, "whitewash" is the word. The honorable Senator says that he will not accept the definition of whitewash given by the Senator from Connecticut or the Senator from Wisconsin, but he does not tell us what he means by the word "whitewash. It is not necessary that he should say what he means by that word. Everybody understands it. I suppose even his colored friends, in whom he takes so much interest, would know what the meaning of the word "whitewash" was. [Laughter.] He says that this man, who stood firm when everybody else faltered—this man, who stood almost alone in the midst of an enraged population, and in the very storm and strife of the worst civil war perhaps the world has ever seen—comes before us with a lie. What does he mean except that the President of the United States, in an official communication to the body, comes here to lie? That is the plain English of it; comes here either to suppress the truth or to suggest a falsehood.

What does the President say? I will read what he says as a sufficient answer to what all these people down South, speaking of their own affairs there, and I do not think it necessary to duy thousands of incredibly ridiculous talk that they have taken up, of treasonable talk, if you please; and I have no doubt that in a state of things unparalleled in the history of the world, of bloody wrongs and outrages innumerable happen there; but that is not the question. The question is what is the condition of the mass of the people in the South; what is their disposition and tendency; not to love the North, not to love the honorable Senator from Massachusetts, because I very much fear that that will not be brought about soon unless there is a change in the temper of both parties—I have no doubt overflowing with love and gratitude to those who they think persecute and hunt them in their ambushes; who kick and strike them after they are down, after they have cried "enough"—but the question is what is the disposition to obey the laws? What do we care about their hearts or their dispositions if they are obedient to the laws, and willing to obey laws? Now they have submitted to laws which impose the heaviest penalty, for if they are traitors the law imposes the penalty of death and confiscation of estates by means of fine. I will read what the President says now of the condition of that people from the information he has received: "In that portion of the Union lately in rebellion, the aspect of affairs is more promising than, in view of all the circumstances, could well have been expected." I think there is no candid man who will not indorse that sentiment. "The people throughout the whole South evince a laudable desire to renew their allegiance to the Government, and to repair the devastations of war by a prompt and cheerful return to peaceful pursuits."

Why should they not? To suppose anything else is to suppose that they are demented—that they have no kind of common sense left; that four years of the most terrible war and the most terrible punishments ever inflicted upon a people, have been without their lessons. It can not be, Mr. President; it is not in the nature of things that it should be.

"An abiding faith" on the part of this man who suffered from those people is now suffered from this war and the doctrine of secession, and the attempt to break the Union. He says: "An abiding faith in a control that the American will conform to their professions, and that in acknowledging the supremacy of the Constitution and the laws of the United States, their loyalty will be unreservedly given to the Government, whose lenient and beneficent policy will secure, and whose fostering care will soon restore them to a condition of prosperity."

And now, Mr. President, allow me to ask when in the history of this world or of the human family, has it happened that severity, gravity, persecution, refusal to recognize common rights, has reconciled a people and pacified a distracted country; and when has it happened that clemency, kindness, as the President expresses it, has failed to produce beneficial results? It is not necessary to go very far in order to find instances to show this. Look at the treatment of England toward Ireland. What has been the result of her holding that people in a species of vassalage? A Fenian insurrection upon her hands now, after hundreds of years of attempt to dominate over that people. Look at Poland; look everywhere

The Daily Commercial

TRAVELERS' CUIDE.

Arrival and Departure of Trains.

☞ Trains leave the New Union Depot, Liberty street, between Washington and Q Hass streets.

Pennsylvania Central Railroad.

Departs.		Arrives.	
Day Express	2:20 a m	Mail	1:50 a m
Altoona Accom	7:00 a m	Fast Line	8:25 a m
Erie & Erie Mail	8:00 a m	Pitts. & Erie Mail	12:35 p m
Mail Accom	11:40 a m	Baltimore Exp's	1:20 p m
Phila. Express	3:35 p m	Phila. Express	2:05 p m
Fast Line	10:00 p m	Johnstown Accom	10:05 a m
Johnstown Accom	4:15 p m	1st Wall Station	8:25 a m
1st Wall Station	8:30 a m	2d "	8:50 a m
2d "	10:45 a m	3d "	1:00 p m
3d "	8:05 p m	Penn Accom. No. 1	7:35 p m
Penn Accom. No. 2	7:00 p m	Mail	8:25 a m
Penn "	2:30 p m	Altoona Accom	10:50 p m

The church train leaves Wall Station every Sunday at 9:05 a. m.; returning, leaves Pittsburgh at 12:50 p. m.

Pittsburgh, Columbus & Cincinnati R. R.

Departs.		Arrives.	
Express	8:30 a m	Express	8:20 a m
Express	1:45 p m	Express	1:35 p m
Express	2:45 p m	Express	12:55 a m
Steub. Accomm	5:00 p m	Steub. Accomm	10:05 a m

Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago.

Departs.		Arrives.	
Express	2:50 a m	Express	1:50 a m
Express	1:45 p m	Express	8:10 p m
Express	2:45 p m	Express	6:00 p m
Mail	7:00 p m	Mail	7:00 p m
N. Castle & Erie	6:00 a m	N. Castle & Erie	8:30 p m

New Brighton Accommodation leaves Allegheny depot at 9:00 a. m., 11:30 a. m., 4:30 p. m., and 5:30 p. m. Leaves Rochester, 7:00 a. m., 10:30 a. m., 4:00 p. m., 10:30 p. m.; Wellsville, 3:00 p. m.

Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Wheeling.

Departs.		Arrives.	
Express	2:50 a m	Express	11:15 a m
Express	6:00 p m	Express	1:00 a m
Hail	6:00 a m	Mail	9:30 p m
Express for Wheeling	2:00 p m		11:15 a m
"	6:00 p m		3:00 p m
Mail	6:00 a m		9:30 p m

Pittsburgh and Connellsville.

Departs.		Arrives.	
Mail	7:15 a m	Mail	6:00 p m
Express	3:00 p m	Not given	
1st McKeesport	11:00 a m	1st McKeesport	6:30 a m
2d "	6:15 p m	2d "	8:25 p m
1st Braddock's	7:00 a m	1st Braddock's	8:30 a m
2d "	4:00 p m	2d "	5:30 p m

Allegheny Valley Railroad.

Leaves.		Arrives.	
Mail	6:45 a. m	Express	11:00 a. m.
Express	3:30 p. m	Mail	6:30 p. m.
Accommodation	4:30 p. m	Accommodation	9:30 p. m.

Parkersburg Steamers.

DEPART AS FOLLOWS:

Monday	H A M	Bayard.
Wednesday	H A M	Forest City.
Thursday	11 A M	Bayard.
Saturday	11 A M	Forest City.

Zanesville Semi-Weekly Line.

Tuesday	4 P M	Emma Graham.
Saturday	4 P M	Julia.

Monongahela River Packets.

MCKEESPORT AND GREENEVA.

Morning	8 A M.	Evening 6 P. M.

McKEESPORT AND ELIZABETH.

Leaves daily	3 P. M	James Rees

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Ewing's Mills, Pa	J. EWING.
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East Liberty, Pa	SAML. ROSS.
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Jamestown, Pa	J. H. CASE & CO.
Jeddo, Ohio	A. P. BRAY.
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Latrobe, Pa	T. LONERGAN.
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Lawsonham, Pa	R. W. ORR.
Leechburg, Pa	J. P. KERR.
Laytonia, Pa	A. J. LOWREY.
Monongahela City, Pa	JOHN A. ROSS.
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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—ESTATE OF WM. K. PIERCE, DECEASED.—Letters of Administration upon the estate of William K. Pierce, late of the city of Allegheny, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and all persons having claims or demands against the estate of said decedent, are required to make known the same to me without delay, at my residence in Elizabeth township; or to my attorney, C. Hasbrook, Esq., at No. 134 Fourth street, Pittsburgh.

dec26,1taw DANIEL PIERCE, Administrator.

ADMINISTRATORS' NOTICE.—Whereas, letters of administration have this day been granted to the undersigned, on the estate of JOHN B. WARDEN, deceased, late of the borough of Temperanceville, Allegheny county, Penna., all persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are hereby requested to make payment of the same immediately at the residence of the late decedent, and all persons having claims will present them duly authenticated for settlement.

WM. A. WARDEN,
JAMES BOYD,
Pittsburgh, November 15th, 1865. [nov16-11taw Administrators.

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S. S. BRYAN, (STOCK AND REAL ESTATE BROKER.) SECRETARY.

Meets Daily at 10½ O'Clock, A. M.

TRANSACTIONS DEC. 26, 1865, AT THE BOARD.

	Bid.	Asked
United States 6's 1881	107	.....
United States 5-20s	102	00
United States 7.30s	97	50
United States 10 60s	91	00
United States Certificates	96	50
Gold	143	00
Allegheny City 6's	.....	98 00
Allegheny Valley R. R. 7s	.....	93 50
Connellsville 6's	79 50	.....
Monongahela Insurance Co	.....	42 00
Connellsville Railroad	9 50	.....
Connellsville Interest	9 75	.....
Citizens' National Bank	.....	83 00
Exchange National Bank	81 50	.....
Fourth National Bank	.....	114 00
M. and M. National Bank	57 50	.....
Third National Bank	124 50	125 00
Cherry Run Central Oil	.....	2

TUESDAY, December 26, P. M.

THE stockholders of the United States Oil Company of New York of whom there is a good number in this city, were taken by surprise to-day by the announcement of a twenty-five per cent. dividend. In all the range of big profits by oil companies this leads off ahead, and shows how very lucrative such investments may become. This is the sixth dividend within a year—making seventy-five per cent. on the capital stock divided among the share holders during that time.

—The Pittsburgh and New York Oil Company has also made another dividend of two per cent. It is to-day's report a steadily increased supply from its wells in Greene county, in proximity to the new gold locality. Its affairs are economically managed and its stock is becoming profitable.

—The sales at the Board this forenoon were 25 shares Monongahela Insurance at 40, and 20 shares Third National Bank at 126). The bids for the National securities were abot the same as last quotations. They are in good demand with some indications towards high er quotations. No foreign demand for gold, nor any local companies worthy of special mention. There was an offer for Cherry Run Central at 22 cents—a very low figure if close for the stock.

—In Philadelphia the market opened rather weak to-day for the speculative class of stocks. It is not expected that there will be any activity in stocks during the holidays. Dalzell sold down to 1.91 this forenoon, and closed at 2. Penn Oil declined ¼ fraction, but maintains the high price it has achieved. The chief feature of the railroad share list was the favorable turn in Catawissa, which advanced steadily since Monday, averaging from ½ to 1 ¼ cent. per day. It is remarked that this improvement, after the late very severe depression, is attributable to the belief that the plaintiffs in the case pending in the Supreme Court of this State, against the Catawissa road, instead of vigorously pushing for their suit, favor by their inaction, an indefinite postponement. We are not disposed to believe that either the Pennsylvania Railroad or the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad have backed out, as the deaf and dumb suit is said to the legal guardians of the case. The cause will come on again for argument January 4th. As to the other railroad stocks, the changes were not sufficient to merit particular attention. Passenger railroad stocks were rather inactive during the week, while the coal and oil stocks attracted considerable attention; as to the se the indications favor a general advance in prices, at least in the first half of January.

—The New York *Herald* remarks that the Cleveland and Pittsburgh was hammered by the late bull party for the sake of producing an effect for a certain purpose, which, it is understood, was accomplished. There was a general harmonizing of interests bearing upon the future management of the road at a late meeting, and a full and satisfactory understanding arrived at with respect to the disposal of proxies at the annual election on the first Monday in January next. While this was in session special efforts were made to depress the stock; but the motive for so doing no longer exists, and its calculated that the conference referred to will, in its results, contribute largely to the value of the stock intrinsically.

—A remarkable feature in the forthcoming report of the State Treasurer will be the fact that the debt of Pennsylvania in 1835, is just four hundred and ninety-three thousand five hundred and eighty-seven dollars less than it was in 1865. When the public consider that this decrease took place during a period when the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of the State were largely increased by the exigencies of the war to suppress rebellion, the achievement approaches the marvellous and speaks louder than words in favor of the energy, economy and integrity of the executive officers of the State, and of the virtue and liberality of the people.

—The following were the closing quotations for the principal mining shares at the Boston Stock Board on Saturday, the 23d instant: Adventure, 2; Boston, 1¾ offered, 1¾ asked; Bay State, 11-16@11; Central, 45 offered; Concord, ¾ asked; Copper Falls, 50¼@57; Franklin, 29¼@29½; Hancock, 14¼ offered; Huron, 8 asked; Isle Royal, 14¼@16; Mesnard, ..; Minnesota, 18¼@19; National, 15@18; Pewabic, 37½@ 38¼; Phœnix, 1@; Pittsburgh, 57½@58; Quincy, 95¾ @97; Rockland, 8 asked; Superior, 21¼@22; Winthrop, 11¼@2.

Philadelphia Stock Market.

From Work, McCloach & Co.'s Stock and Exchange Brokers.]

PHILADELPHIA, December 26.—St. Nicholas, ¾; Maple Shade, 2¾; Curtin, 1¼; Big Oil, 1¼; Caldwell, ½; McClintock, 1¾; Excelsior, ¾; Oil Creek and Allegheny, 1¾; Corn Planter, ¾; Sugar Creek, 1¾; Eldorado, ¾; Mingo, ¾; Junction, ¾; Philadelphia, Lancaster and Cherry Run, ¾; Ocean, 1¾; Maple Leaf, ¾.

Boston Wool Market.

December 23.—There is better feeling in the market for this commodity, and consumers are beginning to see as they thought prices had reached the lowest possible point. They are buying fine wool more freely and in larger quantities than last reported. There is also a better disposition to take hold and crowd down manufacturers on the part of buyers which seems to indicate that fancy prices lately established are satisfactory to all but wool growers. The latter continue to sacrifice, and be sacrificed, for the sake of keeping up the movement in commercial channels; and as this one sided compromise is leading to a considerable revival of trade, it is fair to presume that the decline in wool has been checked.

There is little or nothing inquired for, at present, but the wool for the manufacture of spring goods. The fabrics are worked done in an this description, and will require constant supply for nearly two months to come. The stocks in the hands of the trade are quite limited, and independent country holders refuse to negotiate them at the low prices now ruling in the Eastern markets.

At the present rate of consumption, it is quite certain that desirable wool will soon be scarce; and in view of this fact, many holders of choice Ohio and Pennsylvania clips are holding back, especially as the recent financial necessities of many Western consigners, however, compel them to accept the best terms they can get at this season of the year, otherwise there would be many more buyers than sellers in the market.

With an improved demand, prices already begin to harden, and some of our commission merchants are refusing 160@2 for better grades than XX, and only accept a week or ten days ago. The bareness of both home and English markets, of those grades so foreign staple used as a substitute for fine domestic wool, tends materially to strengthen their views, and of our oldest and most experienced wool merchants, just returned from Europe, informs us that it is impossible to fill even moderate orders for choice Colonial staple in the London market, and American manufacturers are unable to obtain it, than wool at least.

Sales of domestic for the week foot up some 600,000 lbs, at a range of 58@76c for superior and extra pulled. Transactions have been mostly in the better grades of fleece, at about 60@66c for New York 60@66c for Western and Michigan, 58@65c for common and choice Ohio, and a shade higher for double extra fluids of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Of the latter, 30,000 lbs were sold at 70c. Canada wool is held very firmly in view of possibly high tariff rates after the lapse of the Reciprocity Treaty. Medium and coarse wools are much wanted, and strictly graded lots command high prices. Sales of spring lots mixed, on the spot, 20,000 lbs combing at 76@76c, and 2,000 do. do. at 55c. The transactions in foreign have been unimportant, including small lots of Cape at 60@62c. Mexican is nominal at 29@30.—*Bulletin.*

New Orleans Sugar and Molasses Market.

DECEMBER 15.—Sugar—The market is well supplied, and has been very dull since our last semi-weekly review. The weather has been very unfavorable for delivering on the landings any of the large crop now at least 75@6c 5 lb since Friday. The sales on Saturday and Monday were confined to a few small lots to various lots to speculators and dealers, at prices approximating or falling the following quotations: fair to fair to good common, 11@11c; fair to prime, 11½@ 12c; good fair, 12½@12¾c for fully fair to prime, 13c for centrifugals, 16@16c for yellow clarified, and 17c where the was no demand, the lower was no modify and in such limited condition as to preclude any quotation, and though resellers were willing to make further concessions in prices buyers were not disposed to come forward. The imports comprise 350 hhds sugars from Cuba, and the receipts, 1,000 hhds, 1,000 bbls and 1,000 bags since the 9th inst. to Messrs. Jago 2 hhds, no bargels.

Molasses—We have to note a very dull and drooping market. The supplies though not large are amply sufficient for the demand, which is very limited and prices are fully 1c per gallon lower than they were at the date of our last review. The sales on the levee on Monday were confined to 250 bbls at 30c for fair, and 40c per gallon for prime. Yesterday, owing to the increasing cold weather, the receipts were small, and the demand for new, only 30 barrels common were disposed of at 30c, and 40c per gallon for prime. Stocks on the levee for the three days sum up 276 barrels. The imports have been 1,000 bbls from Cuba, and 1,000 bbls coastwise. Arrivals since the 8th inst., 1,221 barrels. Cleared since the 8th inst. for New York, 40 barrels.

Cleveland Lumber Market.

December 25.—Market firm and moderately active, at the following rates:

Pine—Clear	$55 00@60 00
" Second clear	45 00@50 00
" Box	40 00@45 00
" Common	22 00@24 00
Coarse common	18 00@20 00
First clear Flooring rough	— —
Second " "	— —
Cos mon Flooring, dressed	35 00
Siding Clear dressed	30 00
Second Clear	27 00
Common do	22 00
Joist and Scantling	22 00@24 00
Shingles, Cleveland shaved	8 50@9 00
" Michigan	7 50@8 00
" Sawed	7 50@8 00
" Cut	2 75@3 00
Posts	20 00@25 00
Lath	1 00@— —

Boston Iron Market.

December 23.—The market for Pig is quiet, but scantily supplied, and lots for immediate delivery command full prices. The stock of foreign will shortly be augmented by importations now on the way, and sales to arrive have been made at a shade lower rates. Manufactured iron, especially bars and rods, is beginning to accumulate on the hands of receivers, and quotations are dull at previous rates. Manufacturers complain of unremunerative prices for their manufactures, and are making inquiry before Congress as to the relative bearing of the import duty and excise.

We quote American pig at $48@55 ₩ ton, the inside figure for lots to arrive, and the outside for small lots selling at 50@55 ₩ ton, for the different numbers. Charcoal Pig is very firm at $58@68 ₩ ton. Cash. Bar iron is in fair demand with moderate stock, and lots from store are selling at 6½@7½c for English, 6½@6¾c for Swedish, and 6½@7c for Russian. American refined iron is selling at 6½@7½ ₩ ton for manufacturers' lots, and 8@8½ from store. Hoop iron is selling at $8, gold, ₩ ton, for English, and $8@9, currency, for Russian. Boiler plate, 2d sorts, 9@9½c currency, and previous rates. Russia Sheet is more active at 10@10½c. Nail rods are in fair demand and quiet, and selling in small lots at 8½@9c ₩ lb. Spikes, 9@9½c. Horse shoes are steady at 8½@9c ₩ lb for assorted sizes.—*Bulletin.*

Cincinnati Iron and Nail Market.

December 23.—Iron—The market for pig has ruled quiet all the week, however heavy sales are under way, and we continue to quote hot blast at $48@50 for No. 2; $58@60 for No. 1, and cold blast, $55@ 75—the latter for wheel. Bar iron is steady at 6¼c for common and ¾c for charcoal. Horseshoes are selling at 7½@8c; forged scrap, extra, 6@6½c; cut spikes, 9½@9¾c.

Nails—The receipts during the week have been more liberal, and the agents are still unable to complete their orders, and the market rules firm at full prices. We quote:

10 to 60	7 50@ 7 75
8 to 10	7 75@ 8 00
6 to 7	8 00@ 8 25
4 to 5	8 50@ 8 75
3	9 00@ 9 25
2	9 50@10 00
20 fine blued	7 75@ 8 00
Cut Spikes	7 75@ 8 00

Louisville Iron and Nail Market.

December 23.—Iron and Steel.—We quote pig iron, hot blast at $67; cold blast, $75@80; bar iron, 6½@7c; hoop, 9@9½c; horse shoe, 8½@9c; nail rods, 8½@9c; castings, 6@6½c; steel, cast, 28@30c; steel slabs, 22@25c; spring, 12@14c.

Boston Copper Market.

December 23.—The market for all descriptions is very firm with a strong upward sentiment, establishing considerable sales have been effected in New York at an advance of 1@2c upon last week's rates. The article is now firmly held at 42c ₩ lb.

Cincinnati Lumber Market.

December 23.—The market is still an unsettled feeling in the market, though holders are more disposed to meet purchasers in establishing any material advance, but they are not disposed to make sales at prices. The following are the quotations from yards:

Lumber—Clear, M.M.	$	85 00
" Common, "		65 00
Second " "		45 00
Third " "		30 00
First common flooring, per M.		80 00
Second " "	55	00@60 00
First common partition, "		85 00
Second " "		60 00
24		27 50
Pine Joists and Scantling "		25 00
Hemlock "		25 00
Shingles, 18 inch, sawed		7 50@ 8 50
" 18 inch, shaved		6 50@ 7 00
" 16 inch, shaved		5 50@ 6 00
Lath, ₩ M		2 00
Posts, Cedar, ₩100	40	00@45 00

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PITTSBURGH GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,
WEDNESDAY, December 27, 1865.

Business yesterday was dull. This is usually the case. After a holiday it takes a day or two to put things in order for business. The weather was cold for the season making outdoor walking decidedly unpleasant. The receipts of produce were unusually small, hence the sales were confined to a few articles to prices we have no change to notice. They were nominal. On the landing trade was not very active. Freights did not seem plenty to any point. The Kenton will leave this day for Cincinnati and Louisville with a good trip of freight and a fair number of passengers. The America is receiving for Nashville. She will have dispatch. The Kate Putnam is loading for Cincinnati. To persons going that way the present is a fine opportunity. The far-famed packet Armenia is receiving for St. Louis and way points. The Parkersburg packet for this day is the steamer Forest City. She leaves at noon. Capt. Fry's new steamer Bennett is announced for New Orleans, Apalachicola, Florida, and Columbus, Georgia. A fine chance for persons that wish to go South. The steamer Ultima is announced for Memphis and New Orleans. A fine opportunity to persons going that way. A number of boats are due from below. They may arrive at any hour. Below will be found the sales that come under our notice:

BUTTER—We have nothing new to note in regard to this article. Prices have been uniform since the middle of last week. Transactions yesterday were confined to supply the wants of the home market, at prices varying from 30@35c. The market closed weak.

EGGS—The supply in the market was pretty well exhausted. Small sales were made at 38@40c per dozen, loose.

HONEY—There was a fair local demand for this article. We note sales amounting to 12 buckets at 45@ 50c lb. There was an ample supply in the market.

LARD OIL—Prices have been uniform or some time past. The daily demand, sales 40 bbls, of No. 1 at $2.10@2.15 per gallon.

POTATOES—The market contains an abundant supply of the various descriptions. The demand is fair, but not equal to the supply. Sales of Peerless at 75@80c ₩ bushel.

LARD—The demand was moderate; we note sales of 50 bbls white at $2.25 per barrel.

CHEESE—The supply has increased materially; sales of 25 bxs Goshen at 24@25c and 30 do Hamburg at 20c.

CORN MEAL was more inquired for; sales of 200 bus at 90c per bus. The receipts are of limited amount.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR quiet. Nobody wants to purchase at the present asking prices.

FLOUR—The market yesterday exhibited more firmness. The better grades were held at a slight advance. The supply in the market is not large, which fact tends to strengthen the views of holders. Among the sales were the following: Wheat—Sales of 60 bbls Extra Family at $8 25@8 75; 50 do at $8 50; other sales were made at the same quotations. Rye flour, wheat, or 50 bbls at $10 50; 30 bbls do, very choice, at $10 75, and 150 bbls, in lots, at $10 40@10 50. Corn flour, 50 bbls, at one hundred previous rates. Russia Sheet is more inquired for; sales of 200 bbls at $10@10 50. Buckwheat flour quiet, and selling in small lots at $5@6 per bbl.

GRAIN—The demand was light, and prices unchanged. Sales of 1,000 bus Corn at 90c; 500 bus Oats at 70c; 200 bus Rye at $1 30; 200 bus Barley at $1 50@1 60 ₩ bushel, for prime. Sales of 500 bus Wheat at $2 30@2 40 ₩ bushel, for fair to prime.

HAY—The market was quiet. Sales of 10 tons Timothy at $30@32 ₩ ton.

HIDES—The market was quiet. Sales of 100 green at 8c ₩ lb.

SEEDS—Timothy was in demand. Sales of 100 bus at $3 50@3 75 ₩ bushel.

New York Finance and Trade

NEW YORK, December 26.

STOCKS.

At the Stock Exchange this morning, the market was dull and slightly lower on some Western shares. After call the dullness continued on the street, and the market was heavy and lower, especially on Erie, old Southern and Pittsburgh. The falling off in the earnings of roads for the third week in some cases was made the basis for hammering on the part of the bears. During the day, the dullness continued, and at the close the bears offered to contract the market. The bears appeared to control the market.

The following were the closing prices at 4:30 P. M.: Ohio Certificates, 98; New York Central, 91; Erie, 90¾; Hudson, 108; Reading, 107; Michigan Southern, 74¾; Cleveland and Pittsburgh, 82; Rock Island, 108¾; Northwestern, 31; do preferred, 61; Ft. Wayne, 104¾.

GOLD

Is dull and without any important fluctuation. There seems to be no speculative demand. The rate closed at 143¾.

MONEY

The money market was active in the morning, but grew easier toward the close. The majority of loans were at 6 per cent.

GOVERNMENTS

Are quite firm. Gold interest bonds are about ¾c better. State bonds remain very firm, and are only offered at full previous quotations. Coal and miscellaneous shares without any marked change.

PETROLEUM STOCKS.

The Petroleum Stock market was quiet but firm to-day, with sales at the following prices: Union, 17½; Kent, 125; Palmer, 75; Bonanza, 64; Kay, 48½; Phœnix, 5, 15; 229; First National, 44; Orange, 6; Pithole, 67½; Heydrick, 55; Oil Creek, 181; Wonder, 100; Pithole Creek, 15,00; United States, 29,00; Empire City, 59.

PETROLEUM

Is firm and in fair demand. Sales at 41¾@42c for crude, and 59@60c for refined in bond.

DRY GOODS.

The following are the quotations from the Daily Goods Exchange: Brown Sheetings—Standards, 31@32; Lodlow A, 28c; Inducket A, 29c; Bleached Sheetings—Wamsutta, 36c; Lonsdale, 35c